Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. **(currently amended)** ~~An electric~~ A motorized apparatus to collect a sample comprising:

a hollow clamshell casing~~;~~ having a top portion, a bottom portion and a tubular handle portion connecting said top portion to said bottom portion;

~~a contoured shape in the hollow clamshell casing to grip in palm and rest finger, thumb and base of hand for comfortable use with either hand;~~

~~a horizontal extension from the contoured finger rest in the front rests over the index finger and prevents slippage of device from the palm;~~

~~a sample sleeve extending downward from the hollow clamshell casing, the distal end of the sample sleeve forming a cutting edge circumscribing a circular region;~~

~~an ejection rod sliding reciprocally from a stowed position within the sample sleeve past the cutting edge into an expulsion position;~~

~~an electric gear motor within the clamshell casing which drives, via spur gears, the sample sleeve in a rotational manner;~~

~~an actuation means to move said ejection rod by way of an ejection shaft from the retracted and stowed position to the expulsion position;~~

~~a collet to hold different diameter sample sleeves;~~

~~a collet locking system for removal of sample collet system to replace or change sample sleeve and/or ejection rod;~~

~~two spur gears within the hollow clamshell casing allowing for a mechanism that can be enclosed in an ergonomic shape; and,~~

~~ergonomically designed hollow clamshell casing sculpted to the hand and configured to reduce or eliminate repetitive stress injury~~.

a sample collet system connected to said bottom portion of the casing adapted to receive a sample sleeve;

said sample sleeve extending downward from the casing, a distal end of said sample sleeve forming a cutting edge circumscribing a circular cutting region;

an ejection rod being reciprocally slideable within said sample sleeve from a retracted position to an expulsion position past said cutting edge;

an electric gear motor disposed within the casing;

motor actuation means to drive a first and second spur gear disposed within the casing and thereby rotating said sample sleeve to collect a sample from a substrate when the cutting edge contacts said substrate;

ejection means to move said ejection rod from the retracted position to the expulsion position to displace said sample from the sample sleeve; and

a collet locking mechanism disposed below said bottom portion of said casing, for removal of said sample collet system, or replacement of said sample sleeve and/or said ejection rod.

Claims 2 – 28 (cancelled).

29. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said handle portion comprises contours designed to accommodate a left or a right hand of a user.

30. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said top portion of the casing further includes a horizontal projection extending from a ventral side of the apparatus.

31. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 30 comprising a flanged bottom portion of the casing.

32. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said gear motor comprises an output shaft and a primary drive shaft wherein said first spur gear is attached to the output shaft and said second spur gear is attached to said primary drive shaft, said first spur gear is radially aligned and in meshing engagement with said second spur gear.

33. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said sample collet system includes a collet nut that is threaded on to the primary drive shaft and compresses a collet which holds the sample sleeve.

34. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said ejection rod is pressure fit in an ejection shaft.

35. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said ejection shaft is disposed within said primary drive, said ejection shaft connected to said ejection means.

36. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 35 including biasing means to bias said ejection shaft and ejection rod in said retracted position.

37. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said ejection means comprises an ejection button positioned on the top portion of the casing, biased in a first position by a compression spring.

38. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said ejection button when unbiased in a second position causes the ejection shaft to extend and move said ejection rod from the retracted position to said expulsion position.

39. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said motor actuation means comprises a button positioned on the top portion of the casing biased in an open position by a compression spring.

40. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said motor actuation means, when unbiased in a closed position actuates said gear motor, thereby rotating the primary drive shaft to rotate said sample sleeve.

41. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said ejection means is disposed adjacent to said motor actuation mean on the top portion of the casing.

42. **(new)** The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said collet locking system comprises a spindle lock button biased in a first position, said spindle lock button when unbiased is moveable to a second position and engageable with said primary drive shaft thereby preventing rotation of said primary drive shaft for removal of the sample sleeve.